Frontiers
Planet Prize
2024

Mobilizing science for a
global green renaissance
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What is the Frontiers Planet Prize

The Earth’s system is rapidly approaching and, in some cases, exceeding its planetary boundaries. There is a broad consensus amongst scientists that human activities are the cause and that time needed to protect and restore planetary health is slipping away.

In response, the Frontiers Research Foundation launched a new international science competition in 2022. It has the simple but significant ambition to directly address the planetary crisis, by mobilizing a maximum of scientists engaged in breakthrough research, with the greatest potential to stabilize the planet’s ecosystem.

More specifically, the prizes will be awarded to the best research that focuses on advancing insights, approaches and scalable solutions to navigate a world that develops within the safe operating space of the 9 planetary boundaries, as detailed by Professor Johan Rockström, Co-Chairman of the Earth Commission, and Owen Gaffney, in their book and documentary on Breaking Boundaries.

Launched on Earth Day 2022, the first edition engaged 233 institutions, 13 national academies of science, and the Jury of 100, who worked independently in nominating and recognizing 20 National Champions, and 4 International Champions. The latter were awarded CHF 3 million in prizes, to accelerate their research.

On Earth Day 2023, the second edition of the prize was launched, with the same mission: to recognize, encourage, and reward exceptional scientists whose work contributes to help navigate and secure humanity’s future in the Anthropocene.
How the competition works

The Frontiers Planet Prize aims to boost research into solutions for the planetary crisis at a global level by fostering a passionate competition between scientists, universities, and nations to fund and develop science that provides real solutions to the global environmental threats we face.

Institutions acting as National Nominating Bodies for the Frontiers Planet Prize will reach out to the lead scientists of the most promising research articles and invite them to apply with a standard application form to enter the competition. Your National Nominating Body will reach out and set a deadline for when they expect to receive all applications.

From the applications received, the National Nominating Body will select and forward its top three candidates to the national academic institution serving as its National Representative Body (NRB). The deadline for NNBs to submit their nominations to their NRB is 1st November 2023.

From this pool of candidates, the National Representative Body will select three National Nominees to submit to the Planet Prize Jury of 100 before December 1st.

The international Jury of 100, chaired by Professor Johan Rockström, will evaluate these National Nominees based on the importance and relevance of their proposed breakthrough solution or insight. The jury will vote for one National Champion from each participating country, and then from among these selected National Champions, it will vote for the International Champions to win the 2024 Frontiers Planet Prizes.

The National Champions will be announced on Earth Day 2024 (22nd April) The International Champions will be announced at the Award Ceremony taking place in June 2024 in Switzerland.

1 Scientist
- Submit application form to institution
  Invited scientists submit the application form to their institution serving as a National Nominating Body (NNB).

2 NNB
- 3 Candidates per institution
  The National Nominating Bodies (NNB) evaluate applications and put forward three nominations to their National Representative Body (NRB).

3 NRB
- 3 Nominees per country
  The pool of candidates is evaluated by a National Representative Body (NRB), which nominates three National Nominees.

4 Jury
- 1 National Champion per country
  The Jury of 100 evaluates the National Nominees based on the importance and relevance of a recently published article and selects one National Champion for each country.

5 Prize
- 3 International Champions
  The Jury selects three International Champions from the National Champions to each win a CHF 1 million prize.
Timeline

Now
National Nominating Bodies invite the lead scientists of the most promising research articles in their institution to apply. Applicants submit a 2 page application form to enter the competition, by the deadline set by their NNB.

Now - November
Each National Nominating Body submits 3 nominations to their country’s National Representative Body.  
Deadline: 1 November 2023

November - December
Each National Representative Body evaluates the nominations from their NNBs, selects 3 National Nominations and submits them to the Jury.  
Deadline: 1 December 2023

December - February 2024
The Jury of 100 reviews the applications and votes to select the National and International Champions.

22 April 2024
The official announcement of the National Champions is made on Earth Day.

June 2024
The official announcement of the International Champions is made during the Award Ceremony taking place at the Frontiers Forum in Switzerland.
How to enter the competition

Eligibility

The Frontiers Planet Prize will be awarded to the best research published in established peer-reviewed scientific journals, with robust peer review and transparent publication procedures. The acceptance date of the article must fall within the 2 years prior to the launch of the competition (date of acceptance: 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2023).

The CHF 1 million prize will be given to the host institution of the winning researcher by the Frontiers Research Foundation, to accelerate the scientist’s breakthrough research.

In cases where the winning research is conducted by a group of scientists, the prize will be awarded to the lead scientist of the study, as determined, and put forward by their National Nominating Body. The Frontiers Research Foundation will then acknowledge the team of researchers at later stages.

Winners must be scientists conducting on-going sustainability-related research under the management of an established government or corporate research institution.

Scientific criteria

The prize welcomes research across all disciplines, including social sciences, on condition it is focused on planetary boundary science and offers new insights that help to reduce the destabilization of the Earth system.

Scientific excellence is the default principle to participate in the Frontiers Planet Prize.

The following criteria must be met for contributions to be considered for the Frontiers Planet Prize:

- The research advances insights, approaches, and scalable solutions for humanity’s ability to navigate a world that develops within the safe operating space of the planetary boundaries.
- The research has the potential for breakthrough applications that can reduce or reverse the planetary imbalances.
- The research must explicitly (analytically) connect (explore implications) several planetary boundaries at the Earth system scale.
- Research that explores interactions/relations between multiple planetary boundaries will be prioritized.
**Put your work forward**

If you have been invited to apply and you are interested to enter the competition, please put forward your work by filling in the application form, attaching a PDF of your research article, and returning it to your institution.

The deadline for submission will be communicated by your National Nominating Body, but there will be a rolling evaluation of applications and it is recommended you apply as soon as possible.

Please talk to your host institution for more information.

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**Let's trigger a global race for scientific breakthroughs**

Mobilizing science for a global green renaissance

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